

**Communicable Disease Epidemiology  
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**November 30, 2009**

**INFLUENZA SITUATION REPORT** for CDC Week 47 (ending 11/28/09)

**Snapshot (updated 11/30/09):**

- Emergency department (ED) visits for influenza like illness (ILI) have been decreasing for the past several weeks, and were back down to the range observed during the spring 2009 H1N1 outbreak for the week ending 11/28/09.
- Hospital admissions for laboratory-confirmed influenza have been decreasing for the past several weeks.
- Two deaths in people confirmed to have 2009 H1N1 influenza occurred in week 47 (11/22/09 to 11/28/09). Both individuals, one a middle-aged man and the other a middle-aged woman, had underlying health conditions.
- The percentage of specimens testing positive for influenza from our outpatient surveillance system has decreased for the past several weeks.
- The proportion of deaths due to pneumonia and influenza has been below the epidemic threshold since mid-September.
- Ten long-term care facilities have reported cases of influenza-like illness in their facilities since mid-October.
- Many schools were closed during the week ending 11/28/09, and so school absenteeism data should be interpreted with caution.

For information on current surveillance and testing guidelines for 2009 H1N1 influenza, see:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/preparedness/pandemicflu/swineflu/providers.aspx>.

**Case counts, 2009-2010 flu season (updated 11/30/09).**

**2009-2010 Influenza Season (starting October 5<sup>th</sup>):**

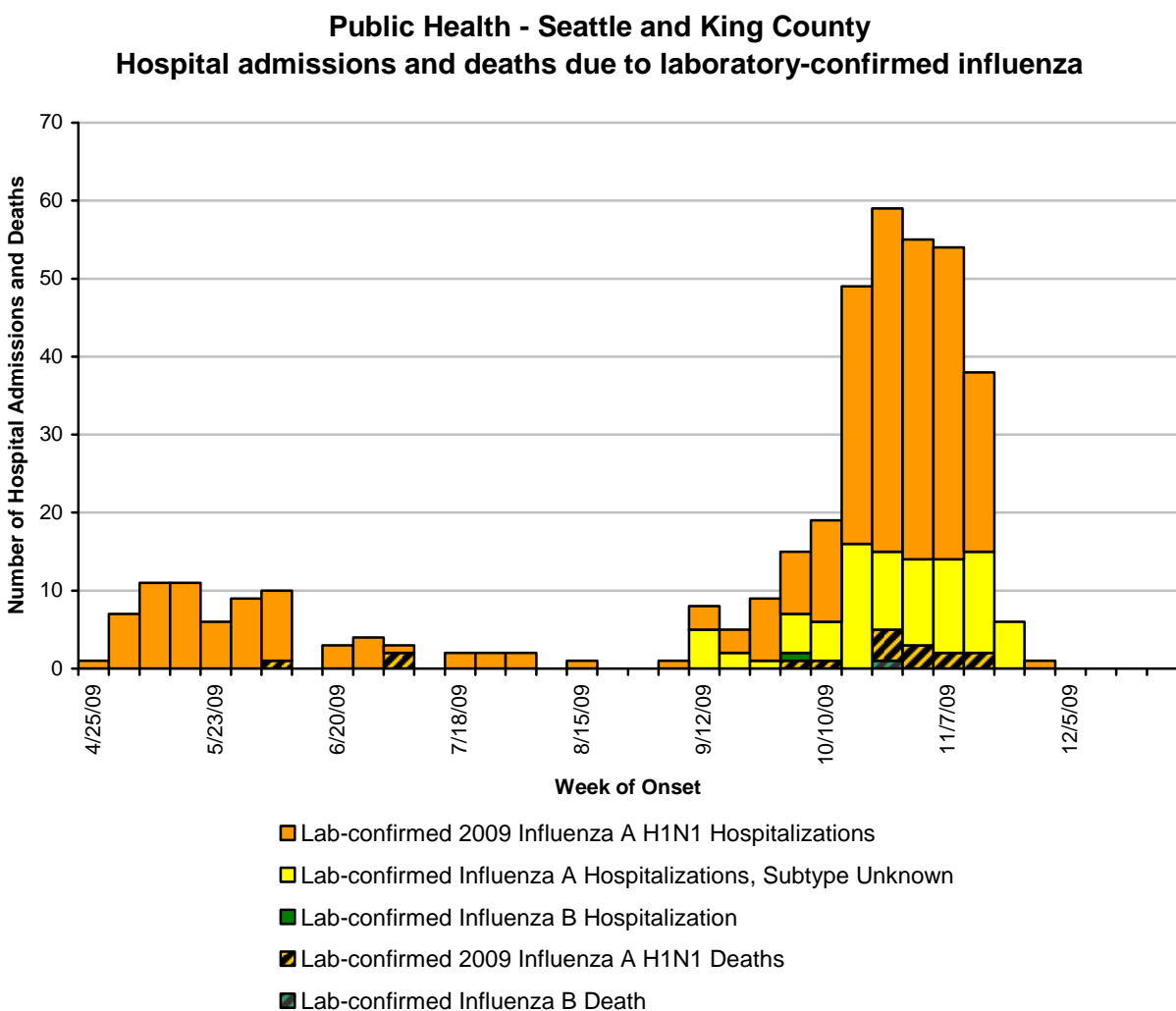
Lab-confirmed 2009 Influenza A H1N1 Hospitalizations:	219
Lab-confirmed 2009 Influenza A H1N1 Deaths:	13

Lab-confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations, not H1N1 or not tested for H1N1:	78
Lab-confirmed Influenza Deaths, not H1N1 or not tested for H1N1:	0

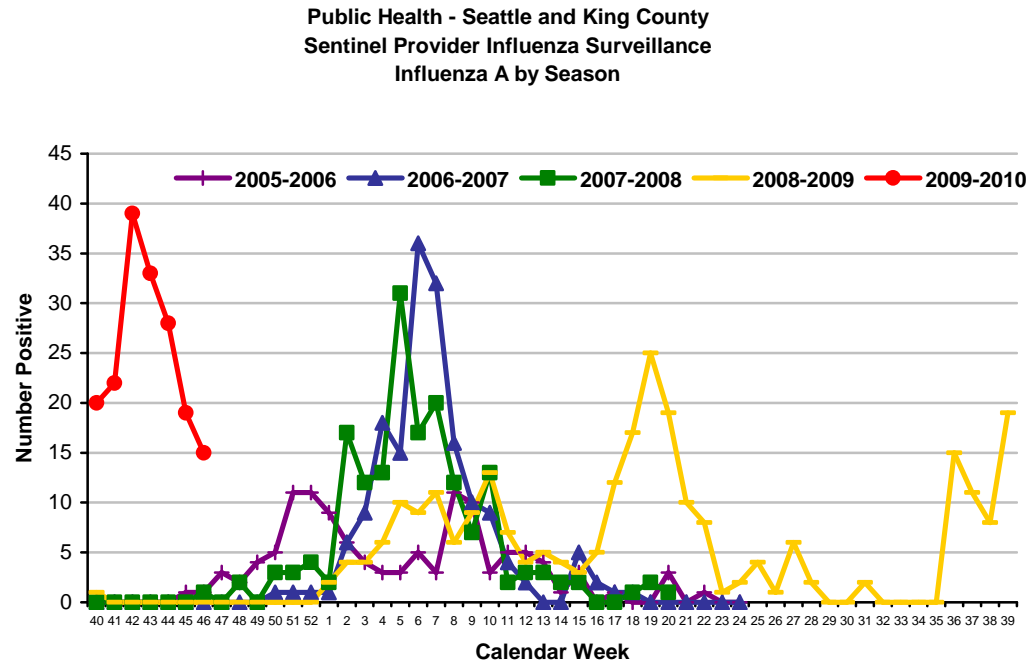
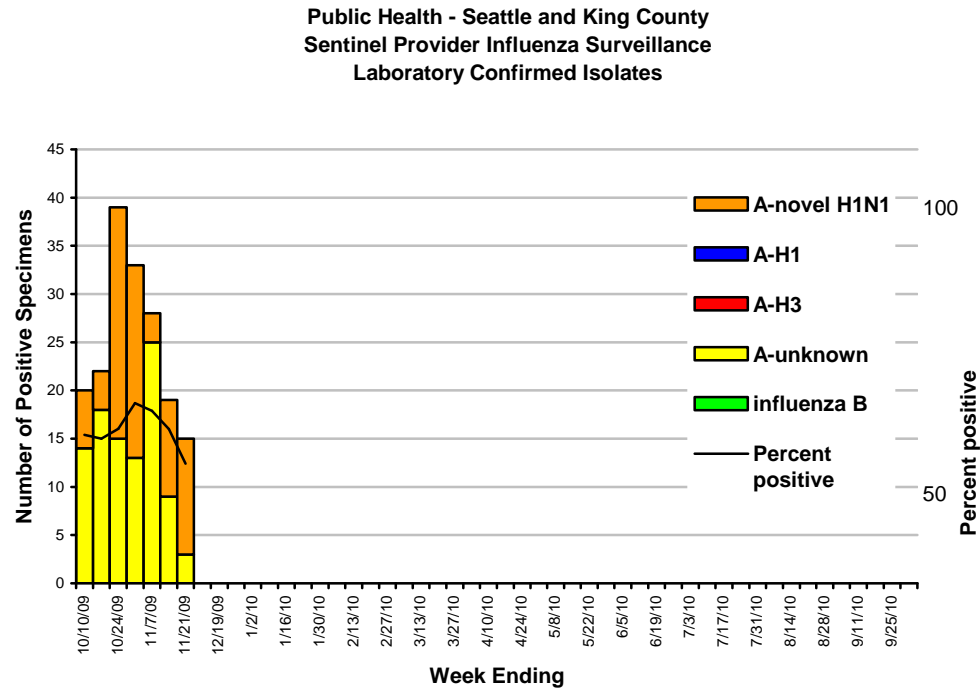
**2008-2009 Influenza Season (through October 4<sup>th</sup>):**

Lab-confirmed 2009 Influenza A H1N1 Hospitalizations:	82
Lab-confirmed 2009 Influenza A H1N1 Deaths:	3

Lab-confirmed Influenza Hospitalizations, not H1N1 or not tested for H1N1:	12
Lab-confirmed Influenza Deaths, not H1N1 or not tested for H1N1:	1



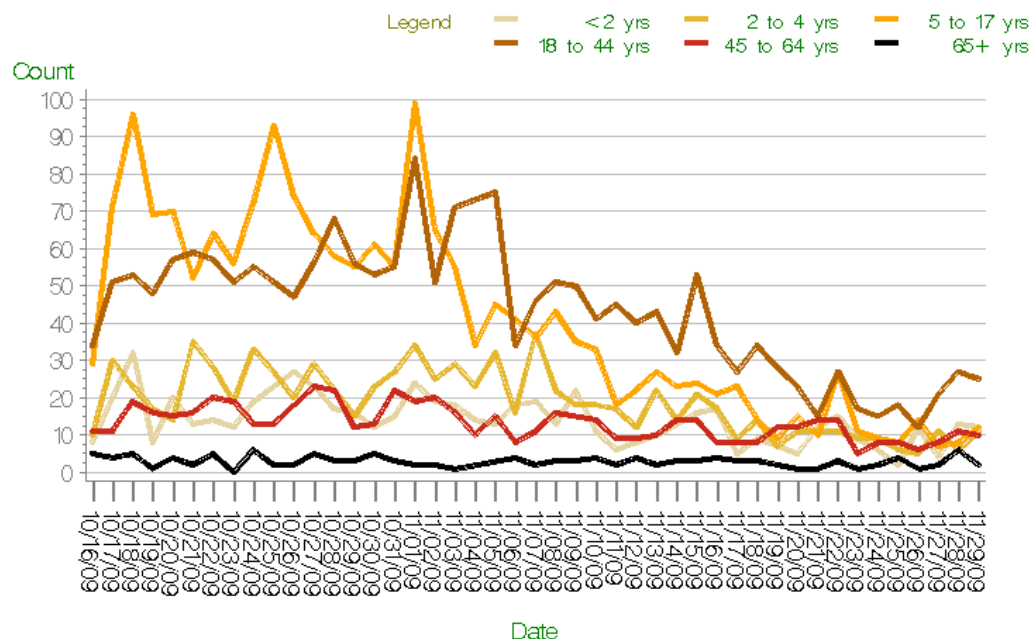
**Sentinel Provider Surveillance through the Public Health Laboratory (updated 11/30/09):** During the week ending 11/21/09, 40 specimens were submitted by sentinel providers for respiratory virus testing, of which 3 were positive for influenza A (type unspecified), 12 of which were positive for 2009 A H1N1, one of which was positive for parainfluenza and one of which was positive for adenovirus. Data for the week ending 11/28/09 are not yet available. The percentage of specimens testing positive for flu has decreased over the past several weeks. All flu isolates that have been subtyped have been the 2009 H1N1 strain. To compare the current flu season with previous years, see graphs below.



**Syndromic Surveillance (updated 11/30/09):** Emergency Department (ED) visits due to influenza like illness (ILI) have been decreasing for the past several weeks, and were back down to the range observed for the spring 2009 H1N1 outbreak for the week ending 11/28/09. The volume of ED ILI visits is currently highest among adults ages 18-44 years, followed by children ages 5-17 years. ED admissions for ILI increased through September and October, but have been decreasing since the start of November. Overall, the weekly count of ED admissions for pneumonia was on a downward trend from the peak in March 2009 through the end of September 2009, with increasing counts beginning in early October 2009. Among ED patients with pneumonia, the percent of admissions for the week ending 11/28/09 was lower than it was during the previous week.

Daily Count of ED Visits for Influenza—Like Illness

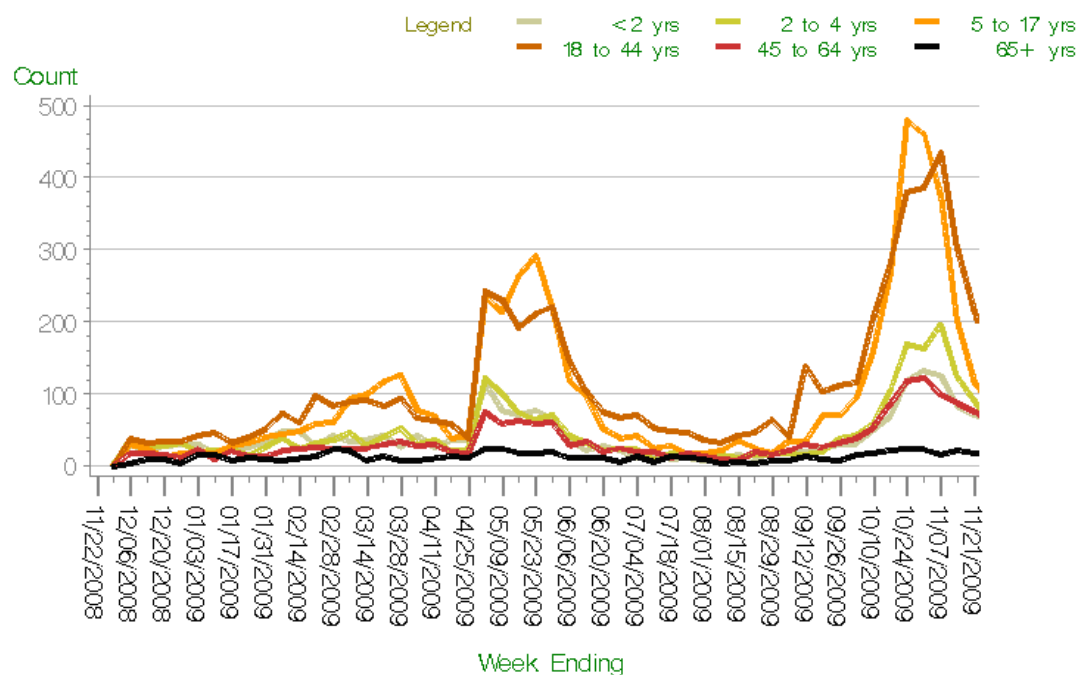
By Age Group



ALLHOSPITALS, Last Updated Nov 30, 2009

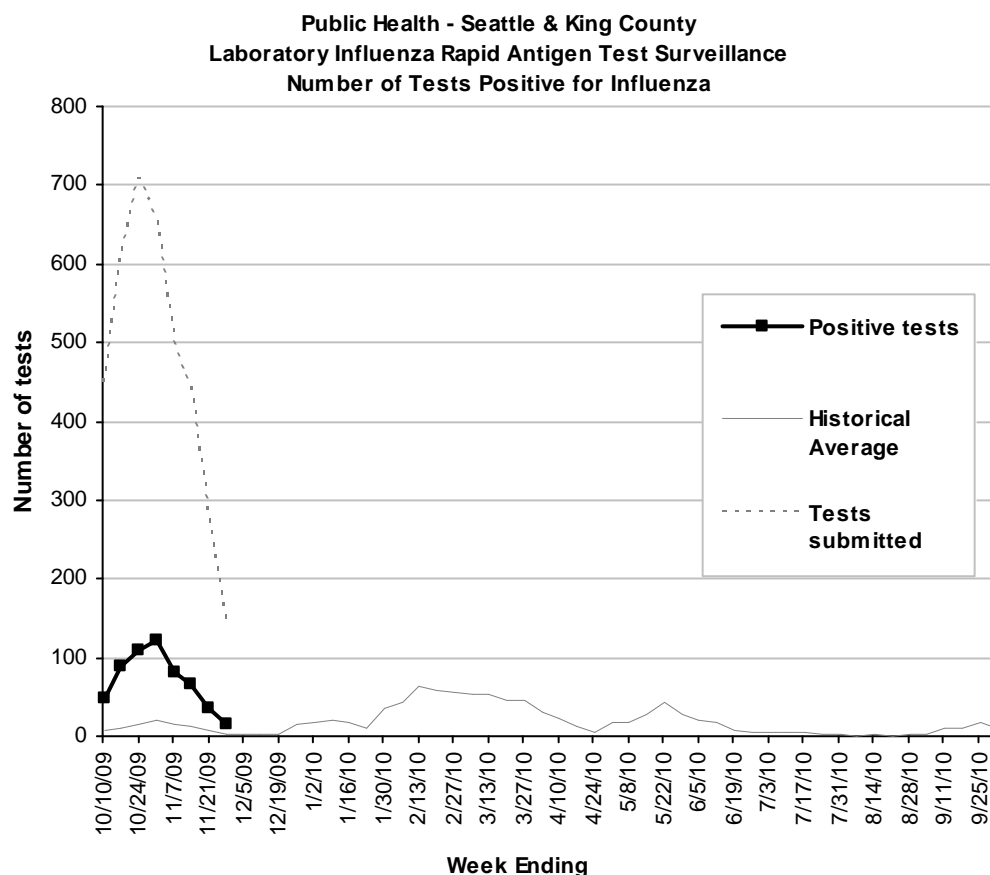
Weekly Count of ED Visits for Influenza—Like Illness

By Age Group



ALLHOSPITALS, Last Updated Nov 30, 2009

**Rapid Antigen Surveillance (updated 11/30/09):** During week 47, 14 of 142 (9.9%) rapid antigen tests reported by 5 hospital laboratories were positive for influenza, which is more than twice the average proportion observed this time of year. 12.6% of rapid antigen tests reported by hospital laboratories were positive for influenza in week 46. Note that rapid antigen tests are only 10-70% sensitive in detecting 2009 H1N1 influenza. For information on respiratory virus detections conducted at University of Washington's Clinical Virology Lab, see: <http://depts.washington.edu/rspvirus>

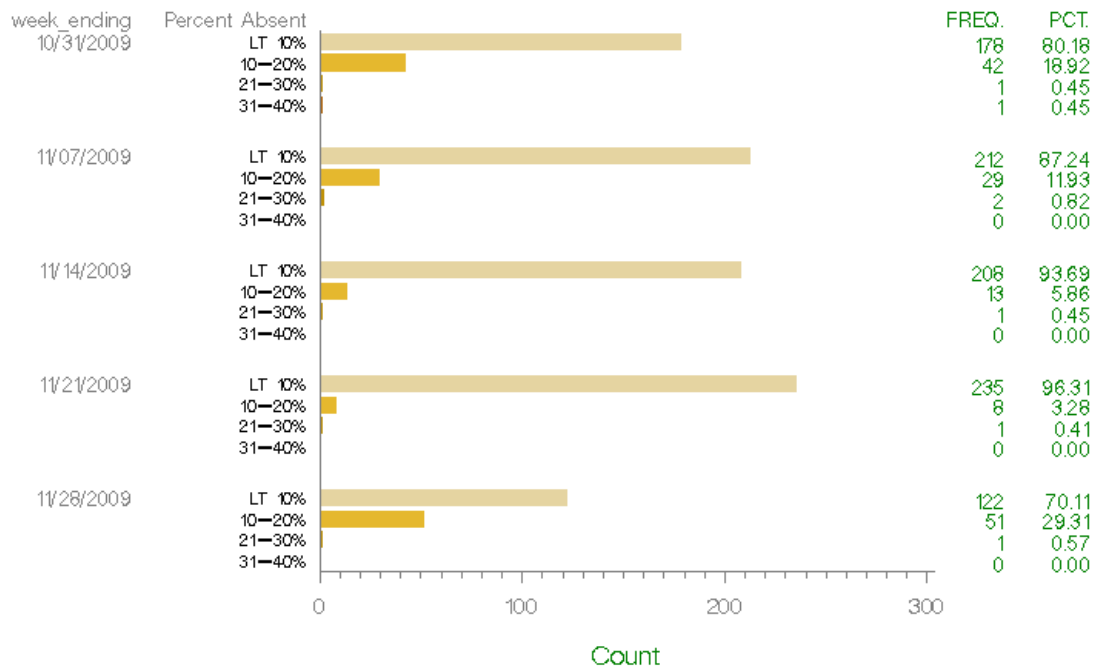


**P & I (Pneumonia and Influenza) Deaths (updated 11/30/09):** 13.9% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza during the period of 11/22/09 through 11/24/09. Data are not yet available regarding deaths that occurred during the remainder of week 47. The week 47 national epidemic threshold is not yet available. 6.9% of deaths were attributed to pneumonia and influenza during week 46, which was slightly below the national epidemic threshold of 7.0%. During the peak of flu season, the national epidemic threshold typically ranges from 7.5 – 8.0%. The last week the national threshold was exceeded was in mid-September (6.4% vs. 6.3%).

**Long-term Care Facilities (updated 11/30/09):** Public Health has received reports of ILI from ten long-term care facilities since mid-October. In several instances, illness was limited to one resident, or to staff who did not have patient contact. Three facilities were recommended to initiate antiviral prophylaxis to limit further transmission among residents and staff.

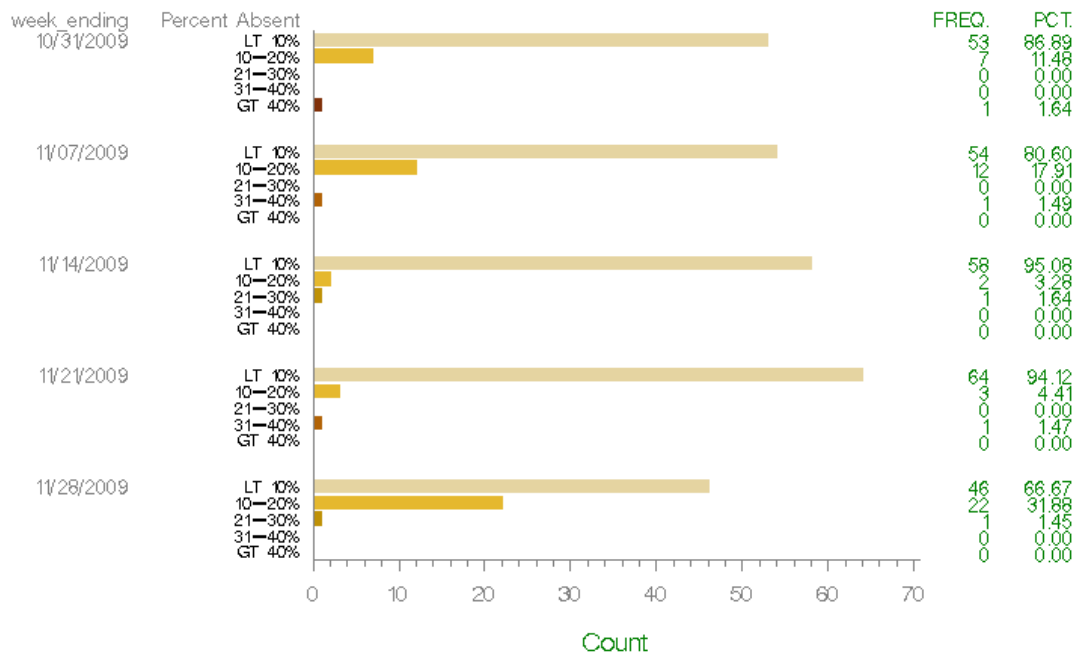
**School Absenteeism (updated 11/30/09):** Eighteen of 19 King County school districts are reporting absenteeism through our automated system. Historical data allowing examination of trends over time are only currently available for three districts. Many schools were not in session during week the week ending 11/28/09, and so the figures below should be interpreted with caution.

Distribution of Absenteeism by Grade Level  
Elementary Schools



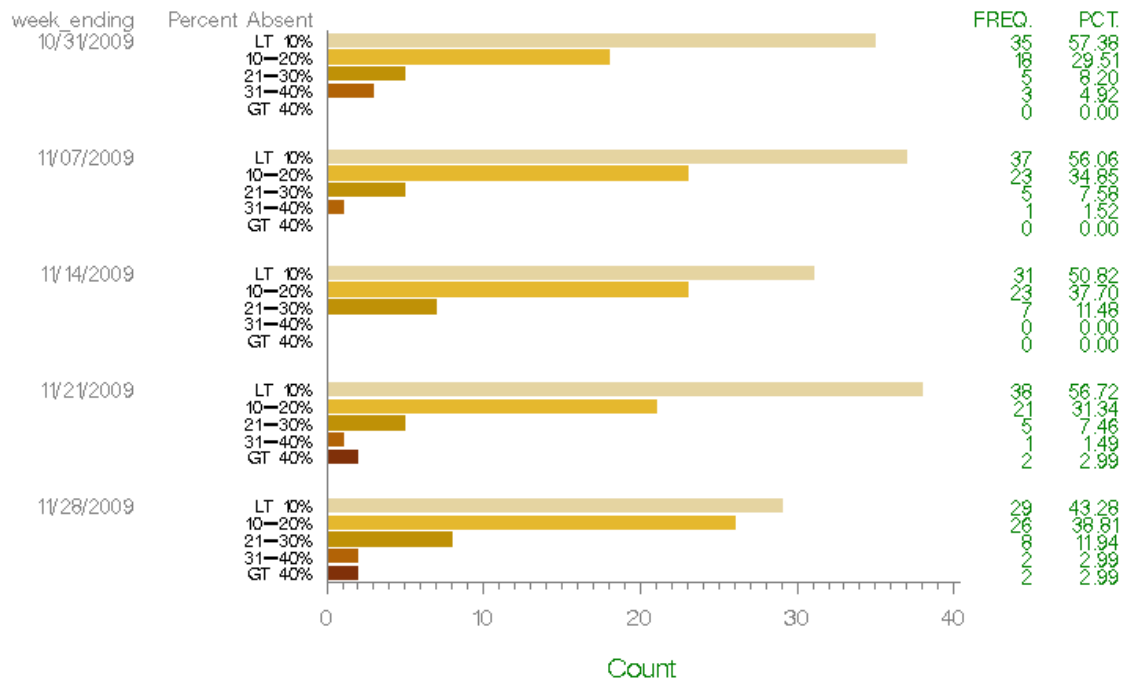
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Distribution of Absenteeism by Grade Level  
Middle Schools



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Distribution of Absenteeism by Grade Level  
High Schools



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## Beyond King County

**United States (updated 11/23/09):** During week 46 (November 15-21, 2009), influenza activity continued to decrease in the US. The synopsis for week 47 (November 22-28, 2009) is not yet available. The synopsis below reflects data from week 46.

- 1,880 (20.5%) specimens tested by U.S. World Health Organization (WHO) and National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS) collaborating laboratories and reported to CDC/Influenza Division were positive for influenza.
- Over 99% of all subtyped influenza A viruses being reported to CDC were 2009 influenza A (H1N1) viruses.
- The proportion of deaths attributed to pneumonia and influenza (P&I) was above the epidemic threshold for the eighth consecutive week.
- Thirty-five influenza-associated pediatric deaths were reported. Twenty-seven of these deaths were associated with 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus infection, seven were associated with an influenza A virus for which the subtype was undetermined, and one was associated with a seasonal influenza A (H1) virus infection that occurred in March.
- The proportion of outpatient visits for influenza-like illness (ILI) was above the national baseline. All 10 regions reported ILI above region-specific baseline levels.
- Thirty-two states reported geographically widespread influenza activity, Puerto Rico and 17 states reported regional influenza activity, the District of Columbia and one state reported local influenza activity, and Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands reported sporadic influenza activity.

For more on nationwide flu activity, visit the following site: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/weekly/>

**Washington State (updated 11/30/09):** During week 46 (November 15-21, 2009), the geographic distribution of influenza like illness (ILI) was regional, meaning that ILI activity was elevated in two or more but less than half the regions in Washington state. The synopsis for week 47 (November 22-28, 2009) is not yet available. The synopsis below reflects data from week 46.

- From September 19-November 21, the Department of Health (DOH) received reports of 1210 hospitalized and 52 fatal cases of laboratory-confirmed influenza.
- During week 46, 8 fatal and 169 hospitalized laboratory-confirmed influenza cases were reported to DOH. Of these 177 hospitalized and fatal cases, 21 reside east and 156 reside west of the Cascade Mountains.
- Almost all circulating influenza viruses in Washington are 2009 H1N1 viruses.
- Overall, influenza activity is decreasing in Washington.

For more information on statewide flu activity, visit the following site:  
<http://www.doh.wa.gov/EHSPHL/Epidemiology/CD/fluupdate.pdf>.